THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Discussions relating to the process of finding a negotiated political solution to the Kampuchean problem have been going on between various countries and parties to the conflict for over one year. India has taken a keen interest in this process. While no concrete proposal has been prepared or suggested by us, we have made known our willingness to contribute in whatever way we can for finding a solution. This has been widely appreciated.

Agreement to import of French technology in the Indian Railways

3263. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any agreement with France during the recent visit to India by the French President in regard to import of French technology in the Indian Railways;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether any other country has been approached for advanced technology in the Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Memorandum of understanding/protocol was signed with Government of France, USSR and Australian National Railway Commission for Cooperation to mutual benefit on matters including technical assistance in the field of Railways.

Illiteracy in rural areas of the country

3264. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the illiteracy ratio in the rural areas of the country; as on date;

(b) what is the total number of illiterates both male and female, separately in the rural areas in the country at the end of 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1986; and

(c) by when the constitutional directive in this regard is expected to be fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P SHAHI): (a) Illiteracy Literacy ratio in the rural areas of the country is 70.4:29.6. The figure relates to 1981 Census Report.

(b) All India Literacy figures on head count basis are obtained through the Census Reports. In-between figures are arrived at on the basis of methodological projections. The breakdown of number of illiterates in rural areas in the past census reports are as under:

No. of illiterates in Rural Areas

Census year	Illiterates in Million		
	Male	Female	Total
1961 .	130.2	161.7	291.9
1971 .	249·3	185.5	334.8
1981 .	153.9	203.2	357.1

(c) The Government is actively seized with the task of eradication of illiteracy within a prescribed time frame and have accordingly set up